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Statistics and Research Agency

Gníomhaireacht Thuaisceart Éireann
um Staitisticí agus Taighde



Baby Names in Northern Ireland 2017



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Introduction

This booklet presents the most popular names given to babies whose birth was registered in Northern Ireland during 2017 and includes all live births to both resident and non-resident mothers. It examines the top 100 first names for boys and girls and discusses additional first names, variations in first name by the age and country of birth of the mother, and makes regional comparisons across Northern Ireland. It also discusses the change in popularity of names over time.

It should be noted that the year of registration is not necessarily the year in which the birth occurred as, for example, a birth that occurred towards the end of December 2017 may not have been registered until early January 2018. Similarly, some names included in this booklet for 2017 will have been given to babies born towards the end of 2016. It should also be noted that different spellings of a name have been treated as separate names, for example Conor and Connor. In contrast, names containing accents have been treated as if they did not have those accents, for example Séan is counted together with Sean.

Key users of baby name statistics include parents, soon-to-be parents and those who are interested in the popularity of their own name. Additional users include researchers who examine how names are changing over time and journalists who produce articles on the popularity of names.

The popularity of baby names can be influenced by a variety of factors including current celebrities, memorable places, religion, cultural and/or ethnic origins and names of relatives and friends.

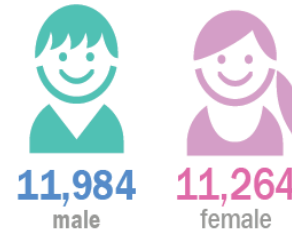
A total of 23,248 births were registered in Northern Ireland during 2017.

There were slightly more births of males (11,984) than females (11,264) registered, accounting for 51.5 per cent and 48.5 per cent of all registrations respectively.

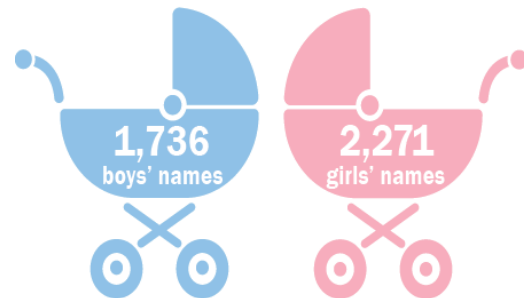
As with previous years, a greater variety of girls' names (2,271) than boys' names (1,736) were registered in 2017. The range of names being used by parents has grown considerably over the past 40 years, with 1,179 girls' names and 643 boys' names being registered in 1977.

Almost 1,000 new names were registered in 2017 that had not been registered since the reporting of baby names began in 1997. Some 61 per cent of the new names were for girls and 39 per cent were for boys.

~23,248 births registered in 2017~



~Range of names~



987 new names registered in 2017

~Top 10 names in 2017~

1 James (243)	1 Emily (216)
2 Jack (226)	2 Grace (202)
3 Noah (189)	3 Olivia (179)
4 Charlie (185)	4 Isla (153)
5 Jacob (180)	5 Anna (142)
6 Harry (169)	6 Sophie (132)
7 Thomas (158)	7 Ella (128)
8 Daniel (147)	8 Amelia (127)
9 Oliver (143)	9 Charlotte (124)
10 Logan (125)	10 Sophia (121)

~Top names in 2017~

James (243)

In top 10 continuously since 1997.
#1 third year in a row.

Emily (216)

In top 10 since 2008.
#1 fifth year in a row.

~New to Top 10 in 2017~



Logan
Isla
Charlotte

14% of babies given a top 10 name

Top 10 boys' names:

- James was the most popular first name given to boys during 2017, with 243 boys having been given this name. This is the third successive year that James has held the top spot.
- Jack remained the second most popular name for boys. It has been ranked in either first or second place each year since the year 2000. It has been number one 13 times.
- James and Jack have consistently been in the top 10 since reporting on baby names in Northern Ireland began in 1997.
- Noah climbed from fifth place in 2016 to third place in 2017 and has been in the top 10 since 2012. It was virtually unused in the late 1990s.
- Logan entered the top 10 in 2017 for the first time. It came close to the top 10 in 2014 (rank 15) and has been in the top 30 since then.

Top 10 girls' names:

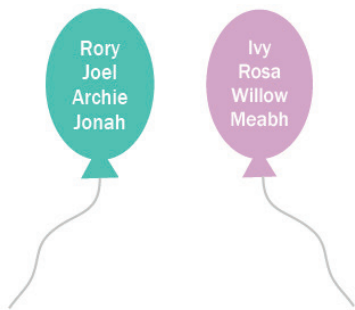
- Emily remained the most popular name for girls for the fifth consecutive year, with 216 girls having been given this name in 2017.
- Grace remained the second most popular name for girls and has been in the top three ranking each year since 2006.
- Olivia, the third most popular girls' name in 2017 has been in the top 10 since 2014.
- In 2017, Isla and Charlotte both entered the top 10 for the first time since the reporting of baby names began in 1997.
- Isla has grown steadily in popularity over the past 10 years whereas Charlotte has gained popularity rapidly since 2015, when it was ranked number 34.
- Names are diversifying. In 2017, only 14 per cent of babies were given one of the top 10 names, compared to 23 per cent in 1997.

~Joined the top 100 in 2017~

Hunter Joe
 Arlo Harley
 Tiernan Cole
 Senan Eil
 Toby Tyler
 Eoghan Connor

Roise Madison
 Matilda Esme
 Lauren Eden
 Orlaith Rachel
 Lara Connie
 Emilia Paige

~Top climbers~



~First time in the top 100~



~Left the top 100 in 2017~

Dara Blake
 Corey Jay
 Niall Leon
 Zach Robert
 Kal Cormac
 Harvey

Kayla Ellen
 Bethany Martha
 Kate Darcie
 Beth Laura
 Lottie Brooke
 Lola

Top 100 boys' names:

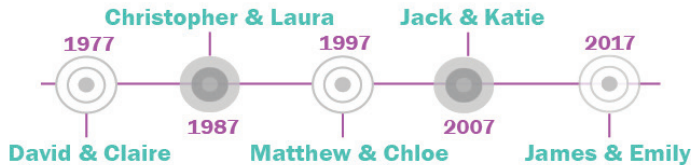
- Of the 12 new entries to the top 100 boys' names in 2017, Harley, Toby, Arlo, Senan, Cole and Hunter made the top 100 for the first time since the recording of baby names began in 1997.
- These replaced names such as Robert, Harvey, Corey and Kai. Cormac and Niall also left the top 100 and did so for the first time in 2017.
- Within the boys' top 100, the highest climbers in popularity between 2016 and 2017 were Rory, Joel, Archie and Jonah.
- Whilst Rory and Joel have been in the top 100 since recording began in 1997, Archie and Jonah only first reached the top 100 in 2010 and 2013 respectively.
- Aaron (once a top 10 name) was one of the names to fall the greatest number of places between 2016 and 2017, along with Jackson, Cian and Callum.

Top 100 girls' names:

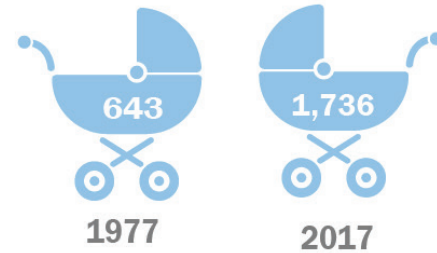
- Three of the 12 new entries to the top 100 girls' names in 2017 (Roise, Esme and Matilda) made the top 100 for the first time since the recording of baby names began in 1997.
- Laura, Brooke, Kayla and Lola were some of the names that left the top 100. Beth and Ellen also both fell from the top 100, and did so for the first time in 2017.
- Within the girls' top 100, the highest climbers in popularity between 2016 and 2017 were Meabh, Willow, Rosa and Ivy.
- Willow and Ivy have grown in popularity over the past five years, having been virtually unused before then, while Meabh and Rosa have been chosen at least once each year since the late 1990s.
- Zoe, Elsie, Amy and Caoimhe fell the greatest number of places within the top 100 over the year. Amy was a top 10 name until 2006.

Change over time

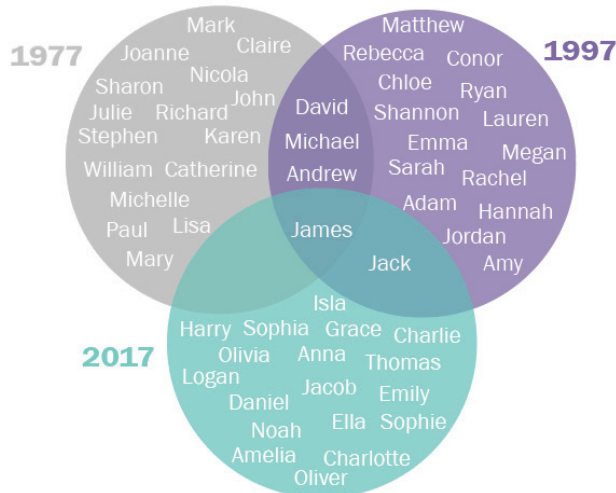
~Most popular names over the past 5 decades~



~Range of boys' names~

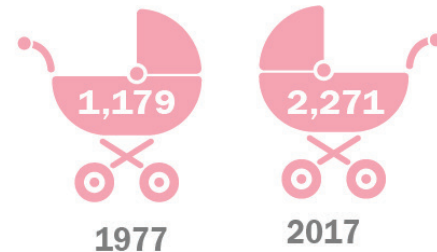


~Top 10 boys' & girls' names in 1977, 1997 & 2017~



170% ↑

~Range of girls' names~



93% ↑

Top 10 boys' names: 1977 versus 2017

- James is the only name from the 1977 top 10 boys' names to have made the top 10 in 2017.
- David, Paul, John, Stephen and Michael were the five most popular boys' names registered in 1977.
- The names David and Paul were each given on more than 500 birth registrations in 1977. The two most popular names in 2017 were given fewer than 250 times each.
- There were 643 boys' name variations used in 1977 compared with 1,736 in 2017.

Top 10 boys' names: 1997 versus 2017

- Of the top 10 boys' names in 1997, only James and Jack appear in the top 10 in 2017. James was ranked third in 1997.
- Matthew, Ryan, James, Conor and Andrew were the five most popular boys' names in 1997.

Top 10 girls' names: 1977 versus 2017

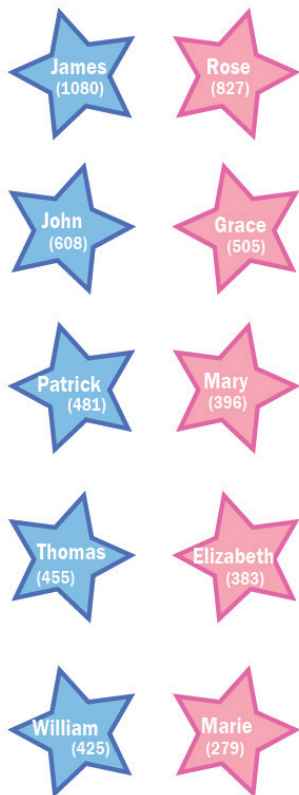
- None of the top 10 girls' names of 1977 made the top 10 in 2017.
- Claire, Joanne, Lisa, Julie and Karen were the favourite girls' names chosen by parents in 1977.
- Even in 1977, parents were more diverse in the range of names given to girls (1,179) as opposed to boys (643).
- Only Anna from the 2017 top 10 made it into the top 100 girls' names in 1977, rank 96.

Top 10 girls' names: 1997 versus 2017

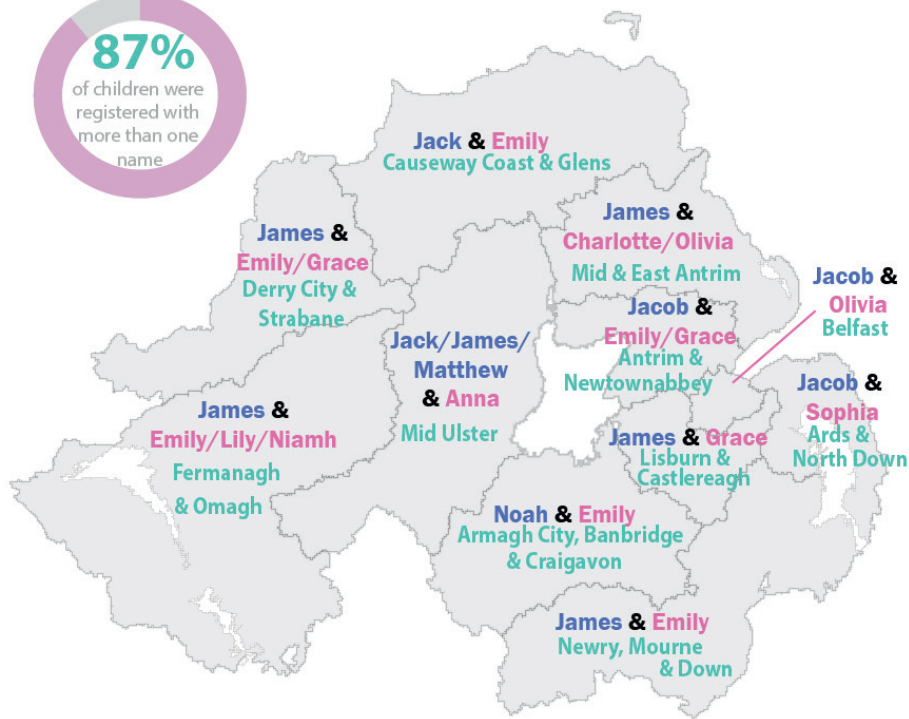
- None of the most popular girls' names in 1997 appeared in the top 10 in 2017. Hannah was the only one to make the top 20 in 2017.
- Chloe, Shannon, Rebecca, Emma and Lauren were the five most popular girls' names in 1997.

Regional variations and additional names

~Top 5 additional names~



~Top names by Local Government District~



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Regional variations - boys' names:

- Although James was the most popular boys' name in Northern Ireland in 2017, at district level it was the most popular in five of the 11 Local Government Districts (LGDs). In one other LGD it was joint favourite with Jack and Matthew.
- Jacob was the favourite name in three LGDs, whilst Jack and Noah were the remaining most popular names at LGD level.

Additional boys' names:

- Eighty nine per cent of boys whose births were registered in 2017 were given at least one additional name.
- James, John, Patrick, Thomas and William were the most popular choices for additional names.
- Almost 1,100* boys were given James as an additional first name.

* This year all additional names have been included in this figure, not just the first additional name.

Regional variations - girls' names:

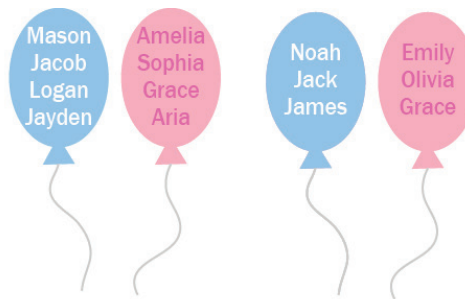
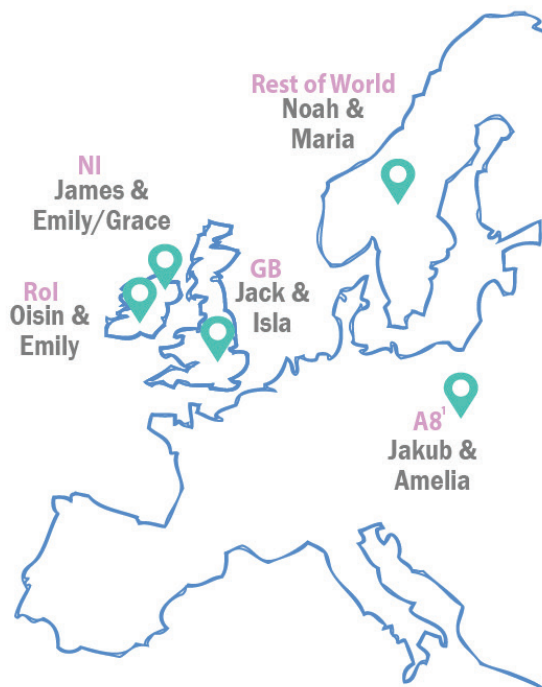
- Although Emily was the most popular girls' name in Northern Ireland in 2017, at district level it was only the most popular in three of the 11 LGDs.
- In an additional three LGDs Emily was joint favourite with either Grace, or Lily and Niamh. Olivia, Charlotte, Anna and Sophia were the most popular names in the remaining LGDs.

Additional girls' names:

- Eighty five per cent of girls registered in 2017 were given one or more additional names.
- Rose, Grace, Mary, Elizabeth and Marie were the five most popular additional names for girls.
- More than 800* girls were given Rose as an additional name.

Variation by mothers' country of birth and age

~Top names by mothers' country of birth~



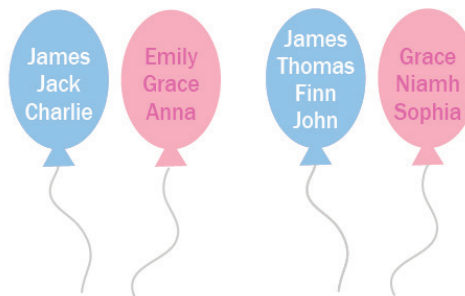
<20

20-29

~Top names by mothers' age~

30-39

40+



¹ The A8 countries are Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia

Mothers' country of birth - boys' names:

- James was the most popular boys' name choice for mothers born in Northern Ireland.
- Jack was the favourite for mothers born throughout the rest of the United Kingdom and Oisín the most popular for mothers born in the Republic of Ireland.
- For mothers born in the A8 countries¹, Jakub was the most popular choice of boys' name. Noah was the most popular among mothers born elsewhere in the world.

Variation by mothers' age - boys' names:

- For teenage mothers the most popular choice of boys' name was Mason. Noah was the most popular name given by mothers in their twenties.
- James was the most popular choice with mothers in their thirties and those aged 40 and over.

Mothers' country of birth - girls' names:

- Emily and Grace were joint favourite girls' names given by mothers born in Northern Ireland.
- Isla was the most popular girls name given by mothers born in the rest of the United Kingdom and Emily was the most popular for mothers born in the Republic of Ireland.
- Amelia was the most popular choice of first name for mothers born in the A8 countries¹. For mothers born elsewhere in the world, Maria was the favourite name.

Variation by mothers' age - girls' names:

- The most popular girls' name choice for teenage mothers was Amelia.
- Emily was the favourite for mothers in their twenties and their thirties.
- For mothers aged 40 and over, Grace was the most popular girls' name choice.

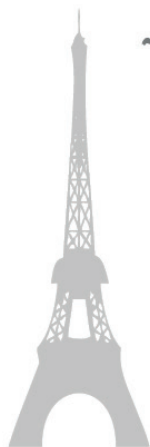
Examples of inspired and less common names



482

75

~Children given their parent's name~



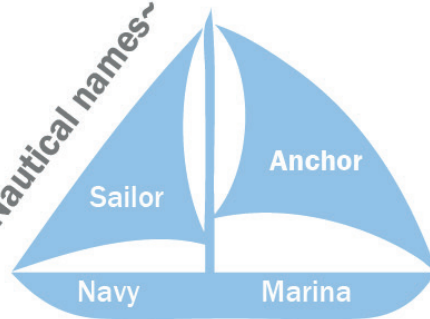
~Place names~

- Adelaide
- Havana
- Houston
- Rio
- Rome
- Paris

~Longest name~

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~Nautical names~



~Botanical names~

Month of birth:

- There was a spike in the number of girls named Maya who were born in May and three girls born in April were given the name April.
- The popularity of the name Autumn increased for girls born in October.
- There was a spike in the number of boys born in December who were given the name Joseph.
- There was a spike in the number of girls called Holly or Hollie born in December.
- For girls born in July there was a spike in the number of girls named Ruby; Ruby being the birthstone for July.

Place names:

- Adelaide, Havana, Houston, Paris, Rio and Rome were some of the place names given to children whose births were registered in 2017.

Botanical names:

- There were several baby girls given the names of flowers as first names. Of these, the most popular were Lily, Poppy, Rose, Daisy, Jasmine, Violet and Iris.

Less common names:

- Independence was one of the less common names in 2017 and also the longest first name given (not including those containing a hyphen).
- Some of the less common names given to baby boys in 2017 included: Zeplin, Blaise, Maverick, Ace and Jupiter.
- Some of the less common names given to baby girls in 2017 included: Lady, Divine, Rio, Star and Vogue.

Parents' names:

- Of those registrations containing details of the father, almost 500 boys were given their fathers' name as a first or additional name. Fewer than 100 girls were given their mothers' name.

All of the data in this booklet are available on the NISRA website at www.nisra.gov.uk

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